

Note:

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Curriculum for the

Master's Programme English and American Studies

at the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture of the University of Innsbruck

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§ 1 Allocation of the study programme

According to §54 par. 1 of the Universities' Act 2002, the Master's Programme English and American Studies is allocated to the group of language, literature and culture studies.

§ 2 Qualification profile

Graduates of the Master's Programme English and American Studies have the following competences in the fields:

1. Linguistics and culture: high level of expertise in essential theories and description methods as well as the ability to critically reflect and apply them in selected areas of English linguistics; specialised knowledge of the development of the English language; knowledge about the conditions of successful communication in the foreign and native language as well as traditional and new media as systems of mass communication; knowledge in the different application areas of English linguistics (e.g. in the field of regional, international, gender- or class-specific variants of the English language); expertise on theories of language acquisition and multilingualism.
2. English Literature and Culture: highly specialised knowledge on developments and interrelations between anglophone literatures and cultures (with the exception of the USA) in their cultural-historical contexts; the ability to critically reflect on and incorporate knowledge and insights gained from concepts, theories and methods of literary and cultural research into their own activities; competence for scientifically critical examination of texts of different genres and periods; development and integration of different methodological-theoretical approaches to different types of text; theory-based critical analysis of social, media and cultural phenomena as well as the role of literature in different epochs.
3. American Literature and Culture: highly specialised knowledge on North American literature and culture in contemporary and historic context; competence to independently analyse and interpret literary texts and other text types and media relevant to cultural studies; critical awareness for the varied and complex interrelations between culture and literature in general as well as cultural, historic and social phenomena in particular; competence to critically analyse and evaluate American literature, culture and film in consideration of one's own cultural basis; expertise with regards to the variety and complexity of the American society.
4. Graduates of the Master's Programme English and American Studies are specialists in the
 - fields of language, communication and presentation,
 - theory and practice of scientific working,
 - text reception and text production,
 - handling new media,
 - interactions between language, literature and other cultural practices, complex cultural historical,
 - socio-political and intercultural contexts.

Moreover, the graduates of the Master's Programme English and American Studies have acquired scientific key competences supported by theories and methods. These include high communication and research skills, which enable them to actively participate in international scientific dialogues at a high level. They are able to get new insights, to find and pursue innovative research and thinking approaches. They have a critical awareness of knowledge issues in one area and at the interface between different areas. In addition, they have interdisciplinary skills in interculturality, cooperation ability, independence and flexibility, the ability to handle dialogues and conflicts as well as transfer ability and competences in planning and project management. The graduates have an awareness of gender policy and are able to incorporate this in applying the abovementioned skills and competences. An optional stay abroad supported by mobility promotion during the Master's programme enables to advance this competences on an international level.

At the same time, the wide range of competences offers ideal conditions for varied fields of activity outside of science. They can apply their expertise in their working or learning field and use their knowledge from other disciplines for the strategic direction and heading of complex projects,

functional areas or businesses. These include publishing, adult education, media, museums and archives, but also professions in the private sector and in cultural and scientific management.

5. The Master's Programme English and American Studies is the basis for a doctoral programme.

§ 3 Scope and duration

The Master's Programme English and American Studies covers 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a study duration of four semesters. One ECTS-Credit corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

§ 4 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Master's Programme English and American Studies requires the completion of a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme or a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme at a University of Applied Sciences or another comparable study programme at an approved post-secondary educational institution home or abroad.
- (2) In any case, the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies at the University of Innsbruck is considered a relevant study programme. The rectorate decides, according to the Universities' Act, on study programmes in question or on the equivalence of a study programme passed at a post-secondary educational institution home or abroad for the admission to the Master's programme.
- (3) In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required by the rectorate. These examinations must be passed during the respective master's programme.

§ 5 Types of courses and maximum number of participants

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. **Practical courses (UE)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of participants: 20
 2. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20
 3. **Lectures with practical elements (VU)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 20
 4. **Excursions (EX)**, conducted outside the premises of the university, serve to demonstrate and deepen course contents. Maximum number of participants: 20

§ 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If criterion no. 1 does not suffice for regulating the admission, then first, students for whom the course is part of a compulsory module are to be given priority, and second, students for whom the course is part of an elective module.
3. If the criteria in no. 1 and 2 do not suffice for regulating the admission, then the available places are raffled.

§ 7 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following **compulsory modules** corresponding to altogether **17.5 ECTS-Credits** must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Academic Research and Methodology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Current Research Perspectives, Theories and Methods	2	2.5
b.	UE Language and Text Production	2	2.5
	Total	4	5
Learning Outcomes: Critical examination of current positions and methods of English and American research; optimisation of subject-specific competences of scientific working, in particular theory-based analysis of traditional and new media text types; application of relevant methods of scientific communication (incl. scientific writing).			
Prerequisites: none			

2.	Compulsory Module: Research Colloquium for Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	UE Research Projects	2	5
	Total	2	5
Research colloquium for the Master's Thesis; discussion of and reflection on relevant theoretical and methodological approaches; presentation of own research results; independent scientific working.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Specification of the research question, compilation of a selected bibliography, drafting of a theoretically and methodically founded synopsis, including the description of the further steps. Planning of an appropriate time frame for the writing of the Master's Thesis.	-	5
	Total	-	5
Learning Outcomes: Ability to systematically prepare the Master's Thesis			
Prerequisites: none			

4.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Oral defence of the Master's Thesis before an examination board to finalise the studies		2.5
	Total		2.5
Learning Outcomes: Reflection of the Master's Thesis in the overall contexts of the Master's Programme; The focus is on theoretical understanding, methodological foundations, imparting the results of the Master's Thesis as well as presentation skills.			
Prerequisites: positive evaluation of all other compulsory and elective modules as well as the			

Master's Thesis

- (2) **Elective modules** corresponding to altogether **80 ECTS-Credits** must be passed, whereby at least two elective modules must be passed from elective modules no. 1, no. 2 and no.3, and at least one module from elective modules no. 4, 5 and 6 as well as elective modules no. 7, no. 8 and no. 9.

In place of the elective module Interdisciplinary Skills (no. 10) and Individual Choice of Specialisation (no. 11), complementary modules can be passed, providing the availability of places. Complementary modules are specified modules from other curricula corresponding to 30 ECTS-Credits. They are disclosed in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin.

1.	Elective Module: Linguistics and Culture I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Applied Linguistics	2	5
b.	SE Linguistics and Culture	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Students have specialised knowledge of research methods and theories of applied English linguistics; technical terminology and intercultural competence through the analysis of evaluation of language-related problems at the socio-political level; familiarity with theories of language acquisition and multilingualism research.			
Prerequisites: none			

2.	Elective Module: English Literature and Culture I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO English Literature and Culture (with reading list)	2	5
b.	SE English Literature and Culture	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Highly specialised knowledge of central forms, concepts as well as historic, social and medial contexts of anglophone literature and cultural studies; critical dealing with different interpretation approaches; expansion of the competences for analysing traditional and new media text types as well as for independent scientific work.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Elective Module: American Literature and Culture I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO American Literature and Culture (with reading list)	2	5
b.	SE American Literature and Culture	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Highly specialised knowledge of central topics, concepts and contexts of North American literature and cultural studies; high level of literary and cultural science as well as (inter)cultural competence; acquisition of knowledge and specialised abilities for solving problems to independently master the scientific work on a professional level.			
Prerequisites: none			

4.	Elective Module: Linguistics and Culture II	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO English Linguistics	2	10
b.	SE Linguistics and Culture II	2	5
	Total	4	15
<p>Learning Outcomes: Methodically reflected handling of topics of the research subject; independent analysis of specialist literature on different sub-areas of synchronic, diachronic and applied English linguistics (with special consideration of questions of cultural science) and the associated scientific theories and research methods; acquisition of knowledge and specialised problem-solving skills to master scientific work on a professional level.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

5.	Elective Module: English Literature and Culture II	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO English Literature and Culture II	2	10
b.	SE English Literature and Culture II	2	5
	Total	4	15
<p>Learning Outcomes: Specialised research competences for literary and cultural studies; development of extensive expertise with particular emphasis on relevant theories, research methods and cultural-historical perspectives.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

6.	Elective Module: American Literature and Culture II	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO American Literature and Culture II	2	10
b.	SE American Literature and Culture II	2	5
	Total	4	15
<p>Learning Outcomes: Highly specialised knowledge of genres, periods, concepts and theories in the field of literary and cultural studies; literary-scientific as well as (inter) cultural competences; extensive reading list of important primary and secondary works.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

7.	Elective Module: Research in Linguistics and Culture	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Linguistics and Culture III	2	5
b.	SE Applied Research Seminar Linguistics and Culture	2	10
	Total	4	15
<p>Learning Outcomes: Students can apply, evaluate, present and further develop their acquired knowledge in university research projects or in the non-university working world purposefully and successfully and to summarise their work experience in a convincing report.</p>			

	Prerequisites: none
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8.	Elective Module: Research in English Literature and Culture	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE English Literature and Culture III	2	5
b.	SE/EX Applied Research Seminar English Literature and Culture	2	10
	Total	4	15
Learning Outcomes: Independent application of theories and methods of literary and cultural studies; development of research-led perspectives and their implementation in scientific practices (e.g. in the form of scientific events, excursion, projects); advancing of key competences (including project management, communication skills, transfer skills).			
Prerequisites: none			

9.	Elective Module: American Film, Media and Culture	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO American Cinema, Media and Culture	2	5
b.	A course corresponding to 10 ECTS-Credits must be passed from the following offers: SE American Film, Media and Culture I, (2 hrs., 10 ECTS-Credits) SE American Film, Media and Culture II, (2 hrs., 10 ECTS-Credits)	2	10
	Total	4	15
Learning Outcomes: The students can independently apply their acquired knowledge of American film and media history as well as critically reflect and deepen their knowledge in film, media and cultural science concepts and theories. They are able to acquire (inter) cultural competences in film studies and cultural studies as well as to critically reflect and integrate them into their own activities.			
Prerequisites: none			

10.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Providing the availability of places, courses corresponding to 10 ECTS-Credits may be taken from the curricula of other Master's and/or Diploma programmes at the University of Innsbruck. It is particularly recommended to take a course dealing with gender aspects including results of women's and gender research.	-	10
	Total	-	10
Learning Outcomes: This module serves to expand the study programme as well as the acquisition of additional qualifications.			
Prerequisites: The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.			

11. Individual Choice of Specialisation:

For individual specialisation modules corresponding to a maximum of 20 ECTS-Credits can be freely chosen from the Master's Programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck. The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) During the Master's Programme a **Master's Thesis** amounting to **27.5 ECTS-Credits** must be written. The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work that proves the ability to work on a scientific topic independently and in a justifiable way in terms of content and methodology.
- (2) The topic of the Master's Thesis must be taken from one of the selected elective modules according to §7 par. 2 no. 1 to 9.
- (3) The written announcement of the topic and the supervisor presupposes the positive evaluation of compulsory module 1.
- (4) Students have the right to suggest the topic for their Master's Thesis or to select from a number of suggestions.
- (5) The Master's Thesis must be written in English.
- (6) Several students may work on a topic together, if its possible to evaluate the contributions of the individual students.
- (7) In order to enable students to complete the task of writing the Master's Thesis according to §81 (2) Universities' Act within six months (corresponds to 30 ECTS-Credits), the scientific paper (corresponding to 22.5 ECTS-Credits) is preceded by the "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" (corresponding to 5 ECTS-Credits). The study programme is completed by the "Master's Thesis Defence (Defensio) corresponding to 2.5 ECTS-Credits.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) Courses of modules are evaluated by course examinations. Course examinations are
 1. examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in the lectures in which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define and communicate the method of examination (written or oral) before the course begins.
 2. Courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by participants.
- (2) The course instructor has to inform the students on the objectives, contents and methods, as well as the contents, methods and evaluation criteria of the course examinations in a suitable manner before the start of the course.
- (3) The compulsory module "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" is evaluated by the supervisor of the Master's Thesis based on an abstract. Positive evaluation reads "successfully completed", negative evaluation "unsuccessfully completed".
- (4) The compulsory module "Master's Thesis Defence" is evaluated by an oral examination before an examination board. The examination board consists of three persons.

§ 10 Academic degree

The graduates of the Master's Programme English and American Studies are awarded the academic degree of "Master of Arts", abbreviated "MA".

§ 11 Coming into force

- (1) This curriculum comes into force as of 1 October 2009.
- (2) The changes to the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 13 April 2018, Issue 26, No. 295 come into effect as of 1 October 2018 and are to be applied to all students.
- (3) The changes to the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28. June 2019, Issue 68, No. 600 come into effect as of 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.